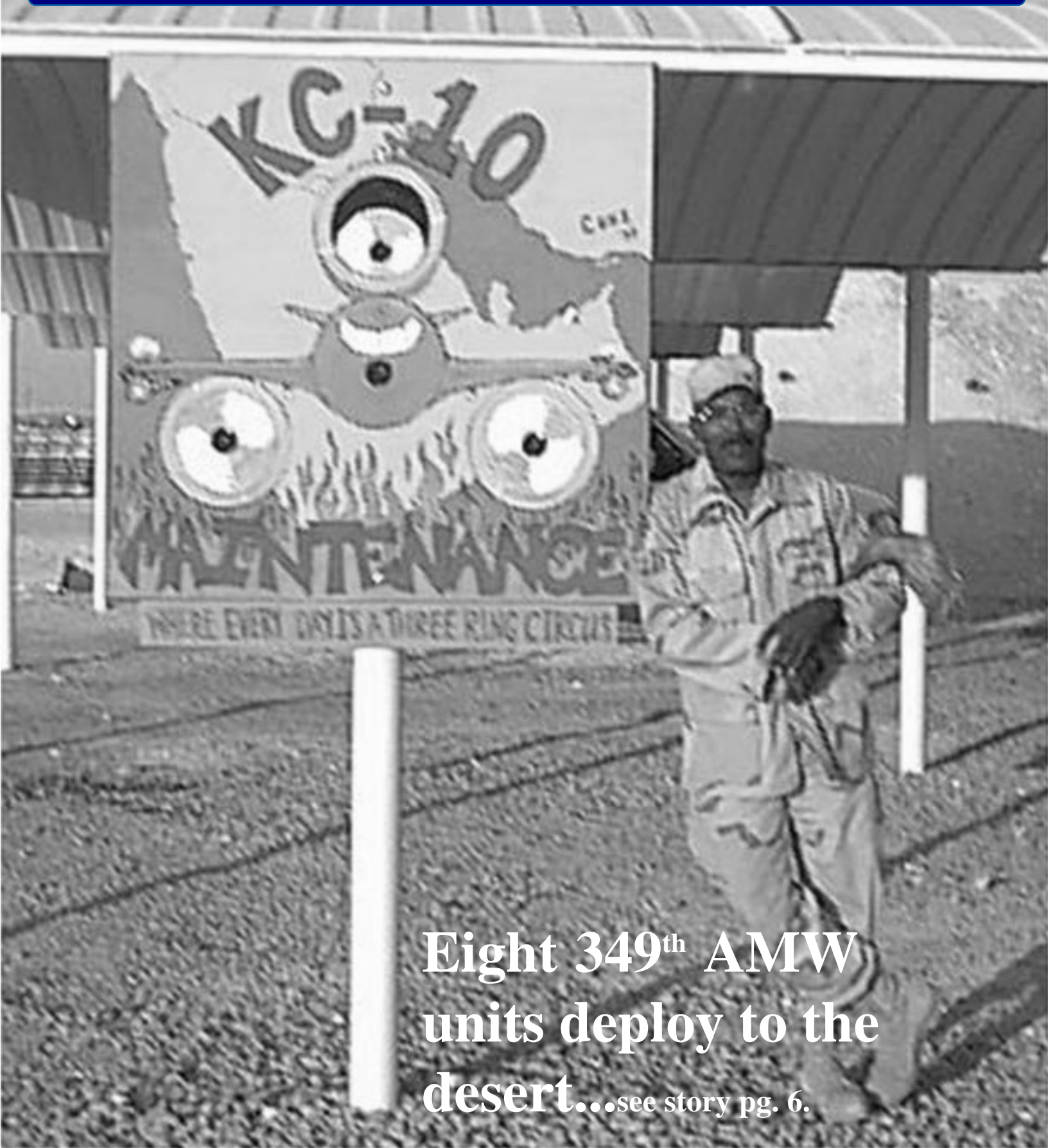


Contact

Magazine for and about members of the 349th Air Mobility Wing
Travis Air Force Base, California

Vol. 18, No. 5

May 2000



Eight 349th AMW
units deploy to the
desert...see story pg. 6.

Commander's corner

by Brig. Gen. Gerald A. Black
349th AMW Commander

No one said saying good-bye was going to be easy. But you folks here in the 349th have made it really difficult. I never thought that I could get so attached to an organization in such a short time. Leaving here is going to be tough.

I remember the day I took command of the 349th. The wind was blowing so hard the rattling of the hangar doors competed with the PA system, and cold rain fell sideways on the parking apron, not to mention us as we ran inside. Welcome to sunny California. But from that first day, the warmth of your welcome more than made up for the chilly weather.

Since then, so many of you have become not just colleagues and partners, but friends. I think this is because these past years have been so difficult for the military. Yes, the economy is booming, and times are good. We have witnessed an explosion of technology aimed at enhancing our lives and the stock market is still climbing.

For us in uniform though, life is getting anything but easier. We are still working at a frantic ops tempo, our benefits continue to erode, planes are aging and spares are still in short supply. And after years of tiptoeing around

the problem, we are now facing recruiting and retention challenges that are forcing us to move in unprecedented directions to man the force. Not a pretty picture.

And yet I believe all this turbulence has made this wing stronger, and forged us into a better team. Not once in my tenure here has this wing failed in its mission. Not once have you let me down, or done anything to dull the luster of the 349th's sterling reputation in the Air Force or the civilian world. You've carried the cargo, aced the inspections, proven your expertise in competition, demonstrated your compassion and care for each other and your community. I couldn't have asked more, as a commander, or as a friend. So now my family and I are moving on. The only thing that makes this bearable is that in moving to Charleston, Judy and I are going back home.

There are so many people to thank here, that to name you all would take the whole page, if not the entire magazine. Please accept my thanks and know that I truly appreciate each and every one of you. You have made my stay here a time of personal and professional growth, both challenging and frustrating, difficult but so very rewarding. I will always remember the 349th with great pleasure and pride. It has been my privilege to command the finest wing in the Air Force. ✈



Command Chief Master Sergeant's corner

by Chief Master Sgt. Anthony L. Maddux
349th AMW Command Chief Master Sergeant

I just returned from the Worldwide Command Chief Master Sergeant conference at the Air Force Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy at Gunter AFB, Ala. At this event, all Command Chiefs came together to discuss issues that impact our Air Force. The major focus of this conference was quality of life issues.

Our host, Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Jim Finch, brought together a group of experts on a variety of issues to update us on current initiatives affecting our people. Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Michael Ryan and the many other outstanding guest speakers focused their briefings on retention, recruiting, compensation, promotions, legal and medical issues and an update on the aerospace expeditionary force.

I am very pleased to report that your senior commanders and enlisted personnel made full use of their time discussing these issues and concerns. We thor-

oughly understand and support the important role you play in ensuring we are able to meet mission demands.

I believe there will be several changes and improvements that will positively impact us all. However, we do need to be patient because of the detailed processes involved in getting these changes approved and implemented.

Other subjects discussed were the Air Force Memorial Foundation, the Enlisted Widows Home, and the importance of supporting the various associations that represent and lobby for us such as the Air Force Sergeants Association, Noncommissioned Officers Association and the Air Force Association.

We all finished the conference believing it was worthwhile because we did receive answers to our questions and shared the camaraderie with our fellow command chiefs. I know I feel much better prepared to do my job as your command chief. ✈



Contact



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Catch up on the latest Air Force, AFRC and 349th AMW news.



COVER PHOTO:

John H. Green, Jr., KC-10 crew chief, 749th Aircraft Generation Squadron, spends two weeks in the desert with seven other units.

The 349th Air Mobility Wing takes part in 'Dare to Dream Armed Forces Exhibition'

by Technical Sgt. John H. Green
749th Aircraft Generation Squadron

It started small, eight years ago, with fairs and shows at area schools, but Friday, April 14, George Ruiz's vision for children became a grand-scale event at the Corpus Christi Naval Air Station in Corpus Christi, Texas. Nearly 7,000 students gathered for the Dare to Dream Armed Forces Exhibition.

Ruiz, a Calallen Elementary School bus driver, has spent the past eight years on a

forces. There were also booths sponsored by various organizations such as the Corpus Christi



Elementary school children tour a KC-10.



Future Marines participate in 'Dare to Dream' Armed Forces Exhibition.



Future recruit practices putting on war paint.



Future Naval ROTC recruits show off their decorations.

armed services in an effort to keep kids in school, out of gangs and drug-free, by introducing children to his own passion for military aviation.

"I did this for the love of my country and the youth," Ruiz said. "To show them the opportunities that are out there and for them to say, 'if these people are successful, I can be too'."

Students from throughout South Texas enjoyed military flyovers and displays from each of the armed

volunteer assignment promoting the local military and

police and fire departments, the Nueces County Sheriff's and Constable's Department, NASA and the U.S. Border Patrol.

The 349th Air Mobility Wing was present with a KC-10 flown in by the 79th Air Refueling Squadron along with the 749th Aircraft Generation Squadron. Technical Sgt. William Wong, 749th AGS crewchief, said he had never seen so many kids with such a positive attitude toward the military service. He thinks there should be more shows with this goal in mind. ✈

New 349th Operations Group Commanders

Lt. Col. Jeanne M. Haddad - 349th Operations Support Flight

Lt. Col. Peter Doby - 301st Airlift Squadron

Lt. Col. Steven D. Cornell - 312th Airlift Squadron

The 349th AGS talks to high school students

by Staff Sgt. Robin Jackson

A group of reservists from the 349th Aircraft Generation Squadron are enlightening high school students on the benefits the Reserve has to offer.

Technical Sergeants Ron Cox, Jim Brooks, Dan Ayala and 10 other traditional reservists take time out of their busy schedules to visit local high schools in the hopes of bringing interested young minds into the Air Force Reserve.

"I contact the schools and ask to speak to

11 and 12th graders in a career development or shop class," said

Cox. "Then, once in the class, we explain to them what we do as a maintenance organization in the Reserve, as well as the versatility in the maintenance shops."

"The 349th Air

Mobility Wing Recruiters are a tremendous help in supporting this group with recruiting literature and



Technical Sgts. Dan Ayala (left) and Ron Cox speak to Will C. Wood High School students about what the Air Force Reserve has to offer.

Greg McGee, Sortie Generation Flight superintendent, was very supportive in this endeavor.

"If it wasn't for my supervisor's guidance and encouragement, this project wouldn't have been as successful as it is," said Cox.

The group of 12 has spoken to more than 11 high schools already and plans to continue throughout the year.

"It is a very casual setting for the students when we are in the class room. I try to bring a diversified group to each class," said Cox. "One person in BDUs, one in a flight suit and one in blues, as well as male,

female and many different ethnic backgrounds. This way we can give a good representation of the Reserve and reach everyone in the classroom." Cox would like to encourage people from other career fields to join their group when speaking to the students.

"It's exciting to see how responsive the kids are to us," said Cox. "It has been excellent and the kids have been very polite and interested in what we have to say. I think we are opening doors for them to see what we are all about and how they can benefit from the Air Force Reserve." For more information, call 424-0776. ✈



A Vacaville high school student, Heather Filbert (left), questions Tech. Sgt. Dan Ayala about how to join the 349th Air Mobility Wing.

Air Expo 2000 features Air Force Thunderbirds

by 60th AMW Public Affairs

The Travis flightline will be the place to be July 1 and 2 as Air Expo 2000 flies into town with aerial acrobats and close up views of America's military and civilian aircraft.

The two-day event features multiple performances by the Air Force Thunderbirds and other top aerial demonstration acts, including the Air Force's F-15E and Navy F/A-18.

Floating in toward show center will be the black-and-gold clad Golden Knights, the Army's premier parachute jump team.

"This year's show is a major event for the base, since we are celebrating the 50th anniversary of the naming of Travis AFB in honor of Brig. Gen. Robert F. Travis," said Maj. Sandy Miarecki, Air Expo 2000 director.

The former Fairfield-Suisun Army Air Field was renamed on Oct. 20, 1950 in honor of General Travis, who died when the B-29 he was co-piloting crashed on takeoff.

"In addition, we will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the beginning of the Korean War, showing past and present joint military capabilities from both the air and space perspectives," Miarecki said.

Other aerial acts confirmed so far are the Stoli MiG-17 demonstration team, Pitts S2C demonstration, Yak-9 demonstration, hang glider demonstration performed by paraplegic pilot Dan Buchanan and a

Stearman wing-walking act.

Gates will open at 9 a.m. both days. The Travis Air Expo has established itself as the premier military air show in Northern California, drawing up to 200,000 visitors to the base each year. For more information visit the Travis Air Expo website at www.travisairexpo.com. ✈



U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds

Reservists return for third desert duty

by Capt. Tania Daniels and
1st Lt. Dawn Young

The effort to patrol the no-fly zones over Iraq is no longer front-page news, but for more than 150 members of the 349th AMW, time spent in the desert has become a yearly occurrence.

For the third year in a row, reservists from the 70th and 79th Air Refueling Squadrons, 749th Aircraft Generation Squadron, 349th Aero-medical Staging Squadron, 349th Equipment Maintenance Squadron, 349th Component Repair Squadron, 349th Airlift Control Flight and 349th Operations Support Flight deployed to the United Arab Emirates in support of Operation Southern Watch. They flew, maintained and supported KC-10 aircraft, whose mission was to refuel the fighter aircraft enforcing the no-fly zone in Southern Iraq.

A total of 168 reservists transited the UAE, most of them in two-week rotations, beginning the end of February through early April. Their presence in the desert helped alleviate the workload placed on the active duty; a workload that has remained steady since the end of the Gulf War.

"The KC-10 crews flew four-to six-hour missions, up to four times a week," said Capt. Brian Smith, 79th ARS mobility officer for the deployment. "They provided millions of pounds of fuel to hundreds of coalition aircraft."

"The deployment went very well," observed Lt. Col. Randy Suttikus, team leader in charge of the

desert deployment and a member of the 70th ARS. "We certainly had challenges, but each time we deploy, we've made improvements and increased the experience level."

Many of the reservists were no strangers to the desert.



Two 349th AMW members load equipment onto a K-loader.

others, who were new transfers from active duty, had already spent their share of deployments in the desert. They provided a wealth of knowledge for those new to the UAE.

"Once again, proactive training in preparation for the deployment paid off," observed Master Sgt. Rick Sweet, 749th AGS, mobility coordinator for the deployment. "All personnel who deployed were 100

percent medical and mobility qualified. Very few discrepancies were noted during the three mobility processing dates."

As if supporting the coalition force was not enough work to do, the last rotation in theater was able to participate in an Expeditionary

Operational Readiness Inspection. "The Air Mobility Command Inspector General was very pleased with our EORI participation," Suttikus pointed out. "We were one of the first units in AMC to participate in this new EORI on such a large scale."

"The members of this wing really stepped up to the plate for this deployment," observed Lt. Col. Louis Leli, 79th ARS commander. "There were more volunteers in the 79th ARS for this deployment, than spots available. We are fortunate to have very patriotic people serving in this wing!"

"This deployment was not just a story about the Reserve," Suttikus commented. "A lot of active duty personnel helped us. The deployment was a success story because of the partnership we enjoy with the 60th AMW."

"It is a great sense of accomplishment to support our active duty counterparts," said Sweet. "They deploy twice as long and twice as much as we do. I believe each year we have gained more respect from them."

The goal for this deployment, to safely deploy all personnel to the region on time, fly safely and have an enjoyable time while doing it, was met with enthusiasm by Travis reservists.

"Morale while in the desert was good," Sweet observed.

"Relax-



A 349th AMW member ensures equipment is tied down properly.

ation of the normal Threatcons allowed us to visit the nearby UAE cities on our days off. After surveying those who deployed, we found that they were proud to be part of the UN Peacekeeping efforts and felt a sense of accomplishment for what they had done in the desert." ➔

The 45th Aerial Port Squadron wins Aerial Port of Year

by Technical Sgt. Kevin Jackson

The 45th Aerial Port Squadron was named the 1999 Air Mobility Command Total Force Air National Guard/Air Force Reserve Command Aerial Port of the Year.

"It's special because it isn't a self-nominated award," said Maj. Dennis Butler, 45th APS commander. "Our active duty counterpart, which is the 60th Aerial Port Squadron, nominated us. We didn't even know they nominated us for the award."

"It's really helped out to have more continuity within the flights," said Senior Master Sgt. Debra Edwards, 45th APS first sergeant. "The communication is now more structured and you can tell the flight concept has really made a difference."

The squadron demonstrated its total force commitment while assuming full operational command and control of the 60th APS, the largest and busiest aerial port in 15th Air Force. It contributed to the airlift of 61,681 tons of cargo on 2,646 aircraft in 1999, according to Lt. Col. Thomas Alston, 60th APS commander.

Squadron members routinely assist their active duty counterparts by performing various aerial port functions during manpower shortages, peak workload periods, and contingency short-notice assignments, Butler said. During the past year, it provided the 60th APS with 64 augmentees who worked 1,270 man-days, which ensured uninterrupted service at the Travis AFB aerial port.

"We enjoy working in the port with the 60th APS," Butler said. "They're a great group of people to work with. We get world-class training and they receive help accomplishing their mission. It's a definite win-win situation for both squadrons."

The squadron was also the only Air Force Reserve Command unit

chosen by AMC to field and implement the Global Air Transportation Execution System at nine AMC installations worldwide. It also tested and evaluated the new 60-K Tunner and the 30-K Commander commercial wide-body loader.

Working with state-of-the-art systems and equipment isn't new to the squadron that makes training its highest priority. Each month the 45th APS puts its members through exercises, which encompass the core tasks associated with upgrade



PHOTO BY TECHNICAL SGT. KEVIN JACKSON

45th APS members load maintenance equipment during monthly training exercises.

training. "We're frequently in training and when we're not, we're working with our active duty counterparts," said Senior Airman Steve Morris, 45th APS ramp services specialist. "I attribute the award to the training and leadership we have."

In addition to ensuring its members are trained, the squadron provided KC-10 buildup discrepancy training for other 349th Air Mobility Wing and 60th Air Mobility Wing air refueling squadrons, as well.

Guiding the squadron's renewed emphasis on training is its mission to deploy people worldwide. While the squadron didn't deploy, it assisted the 349th AMW with its KC-10 deploy-

ment to the United Arab Emirates for Operation Southern Watch in March 1999. It processed and moved 4,300 tons of cargo and 194 troops in 72 hours.

The squadron also assisted the 60th APS by processing, palletizing, and loading humanitarian cargo for numerous missions. In the aftermath of Hurricane Georges, it hastily processed 449 tons of humanitarian aid for airlift to Puerto Rico.

During Patriot Partner 1999, 38 members of the 45th APS were placed in positions of supervision for more than 320 active duty and reserve personnel working in cargo processing, passenger, ramp, fleet service, and air terminal operations. Alston said the augmentees enabled him to deploy 70 active duty personnel to Europe for Operation Allied Force.

"We have a hand-in-hand working relationship with the 45th APS," Alston said. "They provide us with people to accomplish our mission during the week, weekends and during their two weeks of annual training. We work continuously with them and entrust them with leadership positions."

In November, the squadron volunteered to support Operation Pacific Warrior with aerial port resources from its home station. When the exercise ended in Hawaii, the squadron was requested to support the redeployment. Four air transportation specialists ensured the transport of 1,400 personnel and 194 tons of equipment on six on-time aircraft to their respective bases.

"The people in our squadron are committed to doing their jobs to the best of their ability," said Master Sgt. Kelsie Kammerer, 45th APS A-Flight noncommissioned officer-in-charge. "Obviously, it's an honor for our squadron to receive the award."

"It's great to be recognized as the best," Butler added. "What's most satisfying is that the whole squadron earned this award." ✈

Travis maintainers named best in AF

by Technical Sgt. Marvin Meek

The 349th and 60th Aircraft Generation Squadrons have won the Maintenance Effectiveness Award for being named the best maintenance squadrons in the Air Force in 1999.

The squadrons are now pressing forward to compete at the Department of Defense-level competition.

The squadrons' efforts directly supported disaster relief missions following Hurricanes George and Mitch, United Nations inspections of Iraq, NATO military and peacekeeping actions in Kosovo, joint U.S. military training in Thailand, disaster relief after a major earthquake in Turkey, and NASA and presidential support missions.

Despite the nonstop pace of operations, more than 4,000 worldwide departures, and 23,000 flying hours, Travis C-5s continued to lead the fleet in departure reliability (86 percent) and mission capable rates (61 percent).

Travis' C-5 maintainers attacked challenges of availability of critical airlift through proactive resource management. They formed a de-panel/re-panel team to increase the rate of mission-restricting



A member of the Aircraft Generation Squadron marshals in a Travis C-5.

horizontal tie box inspections, accelerating the pace of returning C-5s to unrestricted flight for worldwide operations.

They also developed a management plan for recovering aircraft going through a \$44 million flight management system modernization, cutting recovery time from nearly two weeks down to two days.

Not only did squadron members do it well; they took every opportunity to do it cheaper. The unit

increased workforce efficiency and safety through numerous upgrades in support equipment to include the redesign and purchase of lifetime-warranted, laser-etched tool kits, reducing lost tools by 65 percent.

The squadrons had 27 Air Force Form 1000s (improvement ideas) approved and successfully challenged the cost of numerous supply items. Implementation of these innovations saved more than \$600,000 in valuable defense dollars in 1999. ✈

349th Logistics Group
Maintenance Senior NCO, NCO and Airman of quarter
(First quarter 2000)

Master Sgt. Edward Chappel I (349th EMS)
Senior NCO of Quarter

Technical Sgt. Joseph M. Hal sey (349th AGS)
NCO of Quarter

Senior Airman Joshua A. Bryant (349th AGS)
Airman of Quarter

Show your boss what it's really like

Give your boss a chance to see the Air Force Reserve in action. Employer Appreciation Days include a briefing, an aircraft display and an orientation flight aboard either a KC-10 or C-5, all designed to give your employer a greater understanding of our mission.

Here's how it works. First ask your boss. Then fill out the application form (see below) completely and legibly (social security numbers are needed for passenger manifesting), and mail the form to your group POC. See below for a list of group POCs for upcoming dates.

Sorry, family members and spouses are not eligible for the flight. Due to space limitations, reservists may not be able to accompany employers on the flight. One employer per reservist, please, some exceptions can be made on a space available basis only.

Have your employer wear comfortable shoes, with low heels, and bring a camera with plenty of film. They will receive a letter and base pass, so be sure to include either the home address or business address of your employer.

EMPLOYER APPRECIATION DAY APPLICATION

Employer's Name: _____
(First) (M.I.) (Last)

Employer's SSAN: _____ Employer's Title: _____

Company Name: _____

Employer's Home Mailing Address: _____

City State Zip

Person to be Notified in Emergency: _____

Employer's Emergency Phone: () _____
(Area Code and Number)

Reservist Name/Rank: _____

Reservist SSAN: _____ Reservist Squadron: _____

Reservist Phone: Duty: _____ Home: () _____ Work: () _____

Employer wishes to fly: ☐ yes ☐ no If YES - which type aircraft (circle) KC-10 or C-5

Employer Day Dates:

Support Group - July 8
POC: Technical Sgt. David Muller
or Capt. Heather Capella
(707) 424-3737

Operations Group - July 22
(79th ARS, 301st AS)
POC: Chief Master Sgt. Karen Redd
(707) 424-7003

Logistics Group - Sept. 23
POC: Senior Master Sgt. Theresa Matusick
(707) 424-5884

AIR FORCE RESERVE LOOKS WITHIN TO RECRUIT RECRUITERS

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — While Air Force Reserve Command recruiters work to fill vacancies in a variety of career fields, they must also work to fill shortages within their own ranks. A program called "Recruit the Recruiter" aims to locate future recruiters from within the command's enlisted corps.

"Recruiting experience is not a prerequisite," said Maj. Scott Ostrow, chief of the AFRC Recruiting Training Branch. "We're looking for enthusiastic enlisted members with five-level training in their career field, who are interested in an active guard and reserve renewable tour in recruiting."

A full-time AGR assignment in recruiting, according to Ostrow, includes full pay and allowances, \$375 per month special duty pay and great promotion potential. "We'll provide the required training," he said.

Potential applicants should visit their unit's senior recruiter for an initial interview and to complete an application. Accepted applicants travel to command headquarters for further evaluation. Then it's on to five weeks of recruiting training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. At present, there are 15 recruiting vacancies throughout the United States at Reserve flying wing locations.

"The Recruit the Recruiter campaign includes placement of display ads in Reserve unit newspapers and civilian publications," explained Ostrow. "We want to get the word out that we're looking for Reserve recruiters who are goal oriented."

Meeting goal is the bottom line for Reserve recruiters, said Ostrow. "We must have a full complement of 300-plus production recruiters in order to sign-up 12,000 qualified citizen airmen in fiscal year 2000."

Despite having the best annual accession rate per recruiter, the command fell short of its goal for the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, 1999. The command recruited 9,146 people or 81.4 percent of its 11,241 target.

Ostrow attributes the recruiting shortfall to a strong economy, a market shift toward non-prior service personnel and the reduced propensity to enlist in the military. "This year is definitely a challenge for us," said Ostrow. (Courtesy of AFRC News Service)

FEDS STUDY LONG-TERM, OTHER ANTHRAX VACCINE EFFECTS

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Federal agencies are collaborating in a major study into long-term health effects of the anthrax vaccine used by the Defense Department, Deputy Defense Secretary Rudy de Leon testified April 13 before the Senate Armed Services Committee.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in

Atlanta heads the \$20 million, multiyear study and is working with DOD, the Food and Drug Administration and the National Institutes of Health, de Leon said in a prepared statement. The study will document possible long-term effects and examine risk factors for adverse reactions and dosing.

"The DOD leadership ... are aware of and respect the concerns expressed by a small number of service members about possible long-term health effects," de Leon said. At least 12 studies involving more than 16,000 vaccine recipients have been conducted and show common short-term side effects include local injection site reactions, headache, slight fever, joint pain and fatigue.

Program officials have said women seem nearly twice as likely as men to have a local reaction at the injection site. Currently, the anthrax vaccine is injected subcutaneously, or directly below the skin. The new CDC collaboration will seek to determine if the vaccine is as safe and effective if injected into muscle, which may reduce localized reactions, a DOD anthrax immunization program official said.

The study will also look at whether the current six-dose regimen could be cut to five or even four shots and whether individuals need annual booster shots, the official said. A second, separate long-term study is following 570 test and control subjects previously employed at Fort Detrick, Md. De Leon said the purpose of the study, begun in 1996, is to examine the effects of receiving multiple vaccines, including the one for anthrax.

"All volunteers signed an approved informed-consent document. The study media included a nine-page health history questionnaire, extensive blood tests and urinalysis," de Leon said in his testimony. "The questionnaire queries mental and physical conditions of progeny as well as the health of the volunteers. Study end points include symptoms, ... diseases, (and) abnormal laboratory and urine tests."

In his testimony, the deputy secretary also told Congress that DOD urges all members who believe they've had an adverse reaction to report it through the FDA's Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System. "Not only are members encouraged to submit a report, but families or anyone personally aware of a situation can as well," he said. "We listen. We are concerned."

Individuals can file FDA adverse event reports on DOD's anthrax Web site, or by calling the FDA's toll-free information line, 1-800-822-7967. The site also presents current reporting statistics for DOD's anthrax immunization program.

De Leon's statement reiterated DOD's resolve to vaccinate all service members in high-risk areas. "Currently, about a dozen nation states are known to possess or have in development a biological warfare capability. There is also evidence that a small number of terrorist groups appear to be interested in biological agents," he said. "Of all known biological warfare agents, anthrax spores are the top choice ... for germ warfare."

GI BILL INCENTIVES TARGET RECRUITING, RETENTION

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. – In effort to stimulate recruiting and retention, Air Force Reserve Command plans to offer two new education incentive programs to unit program reservists and individual mobilization augmentees.

The programs are the Montgomery G.I. Bill-Selected Reserve "Kicker" program and a full tuition assistance program. Officials from the Office of Air Force Reserve in the Pentagon, Headquarters AFRC at Robins AFB and Headquarters Air Reserve Personnel Center in Denver are working on the programs and plan to start them later this fiscal year. Implementation depends on the availability of FY 2000 funding.

To qualify for the MGIB-SR Kicker benefit, a reservist must:

- Commit to a 6-year enlistment in a critical Air Force specialty code identified by the Office of Air Force Reserve;
- Be drawing the MGIB-SR basic benefit;
- Be participating in the Selected Reserve;
- Have completed initial active-duty training;
- Have a high school diploma or equivalent; and
- Be enrolled in an approved institution.

In addition to the MGIB-SR basic benefit, Kicker recipients get \$350 per month up to a maximum of 36 months for students enrolled full-time.

The Kicker program is a congressional initiative designed to bolster recruiting and retention. Other reserve components have similar programs.

The Air Force Reserve Tuition Assistance Incentive Program expands the existing Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education tuition assistance program. The Reserve began its DANTES program for unit reservists and IMAs in October 1997.

The new program offers tuition assistance across the board to all eligible reservists seeking education up to a bachelor's degree. Tuition assistance is payable for up to 75 percent of tuition costs not to exceed \$187 per semester hour, up to a maximum incentive of \$2,500 per year. The new program raises the annual cap from \$1,500. Command training officials say they will announce eligibility requirements and program features at a later date. (AFRC News Service)

AIR FORCE SYSTEM EASES CIVILIAN JOB SEARCH

WASHINGTON — Job seekers will no longer have to continually check for Air Force vacancies once the Civilian Announcement Notification System goes online this spring.

Nicknamed CANS, the system allows people to sign up using their e-mail address and automatically receive a

list of new Air Force civilian job announcements that match their specific search criteria, according to Felipe Jimenez, CANS action officer at the Palace Compass program office, Directorate of Personnel Force Management. Scheduled to launch May 1, CANS is the only one of its kind in the Department of Defense, although private industry has similar systems, Jimenez said.

"The great thing about CANS is that it eliminates the need for an applicant to constantly check for new job announcements," he said. To sign on, the only information required is a valid e-mail address. This is a very user-friendly program," Jimenez pointed out. "Once you're logged on, the system will take you through the process step by step. All you need to do is list your specific job criteria, and CANS does the rest."

Applicants will input their search criteria, such as occupational series, pay plan and grade combinations, and duty locations. Once the criteria are established, they will remain in the system for 180 days before expiring. Applicants can list up to 20 different criteria combinations. The information can be changed at any time, initiating another 180-day cycle.

The system will automatically search for jobs based on the applicant's search criteria; if there are any matches, an e-mail will be sent to the applicant listing the job announcement number, description, pay plan, occupational series, grade, job location, closing date and the announcement's URL. Anyone interested in seeking employment with the Air Force is eligible to sign on, including military members close to retiring or separating, according to Jimenez.

Beginning May 1, people can go to their Web site to sign on to the CANS subscription service via the World Wide Web. This Web site is currently operational and now features additional information, such as an updated Job Kit and online Resume Writer.

Jimenez said potential applicants for Air Force civilian jobs now have an endless source of employment information, from links to position announcements to detailed instructions on how to prepare and submit a properly formatted resume. Users can also point and click their way to other related web sites, such as the Veterans Home Page, OPM and the Air Force Civilian Career Management Program. (AFRC News Service)

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